

City of Stevens Point
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Stevens Point, WI 54481-3594
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PSC REF#: 85266

Andrew J. Halverson
Mayor

715-346-1570

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

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Telecommunications
Division

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 11/07/07, 8:47:06 AM

November 2, 2007

Sandra J. Paske
Secretary to the Commission
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Investigation of Area Code Relief for the 715 Area Code in Northern Wisconsin – PSCW Docket No. 5-TN-100

Dear Ms. Paske:

On behalf of the City of Stevens Point, I am writing in response to the Public Service Commission's (PSC) proposed changes to the existing 715 area code. The City of Stevens Point would like to express our strong preference for a geographic split alternative that retains the 715 area code for the City of Stevens Point.

We have the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point here with over 1200 employees in the city and surrounding communities, and changing the 715 area code would create confusion with the public and private sector constituents, while increasing the costs of their telecommunications operating expenses.

We also have numerous employers, including our largest, Sentry Insurance with about 2700 employees in Stevens Point. They service 1.5 million individual and business customers. Keeping the 715 area code allows all these employers to avoid any confusion and expense to their customers and workforce that would occur if they are forced to change all their existing numbers or adds a second area code under the overlay scenario.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the City of Stevens Point is home to a booming segment of the population that speaks English as a second language as well as the highest per capita Senior Care enrollment population in the State. An area code change could potentially cause a great deal of confusion for these populations; please consider keeping the entire area of Stevens Point in the 715 area code and our immediately surrounding area.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, or should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Halverson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew J. Halverson
Mayor
City of Stevens Point

cc: State Senator Julie Lassa
State Representative Louis Molepske
Sr. Vice President James D. Stitzlein